

·ዾ፟ራ Vd۵ンሩ・ مَירוֹ אָשִׁילי אַ כּבֹגַטַ לִי (۵ִאַל אַיִי) Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

לאל חעאיירזא Cree Nation Government Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

Whapmagoostui ·⊲́∧Ld∽⊃∆

Chisasibi ריקלא

Wemindji ☆୮°穴

Eastmain 占[、]기억

Waskaganish ∙ḋʰbʷ∆̓b♂∽°́

Nemaska ⴰⵎˤⴰⴰ

Waswanipi ∙⊲້∿∙⊲໋σ-∧

Ouje-Bougoumou ⊳∩>d」

Mistissini ୮^៶በፖờ

Washaw Sibi ∧ُہ ⊲ن⊳

MoCreebec _jpự∕₽

Message from the Office of Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty

Statement on Premier François Legault's inaugural speech at the 43rd legislature of the National Assembly

On November 30th, the Quebec government had the opening of the 43rd Legislature session of the National Assembly, where I was present during the presentation of the Premier's priorities.

As the Cree Nation developed a relationship with the government during their first term, we are now looking to continue the work moving forward into a new term with this government.

During his speech, the Premier announced the 5 priorities of his government;

- 1. Environment a pledge to have net zero emissions for 2050
- 2. Economy closing the wealth gap of Quebec by increasing green economy, forestry spin-offs, and strategic minerals
- 3. Education training and recruiting more students in specialized training, and addressing early childhood and youth needs
- 4. Health Retaining more medical staff, enhancing medical services, and approaching the federal government for increased contribution
- 5. Identity the goals of Bill 96 to secure the existence of the French language and culture

In his opening statement, Mr. Legault also touched on an essential component, also referenced in the announcement of his re-election: a desire to work on reconciliation and the importance of a nation-to-nation relationship and that Indigenous peoples and Quebec needed one another.

The priorities that Premier Legault hopes to achieve successfully are going to be done by, in his words, "attaining results".



نَصْ تَحْلَكُ خَلْتَ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهُ اللَّعَامَ عَلَيْهُ اللَّعَامَ Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee) לא הירחייל NV אירחיי Cree Nation Government Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

I reflected on this presentation by Quebec and it is clear that the success of this government is going to depend heavily on their ability to build a working relationship with Indigenous peoples and the Cree Nation. We are in a special relationship based on a nation-to-nation agreement outlined in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and other agreements signed.

The Cree Nation has been an intrinsic component of the province's plan for energy. We previously raised our position and successfully won a massive battle to ensure our rights after another Premier announced the "project of the century" in Eeyou Istchee back in April of 1971.

The context of energy has evolved and changed since that time. We are now facing a new reality on an environmental scale – the electrification of vehicles by 2030 to reduce emissions and fight climate change.

We, the Cree Nation, were subject to massive energy development in our territory. We have lived with the impact of these projects and seen their impact on the Cree way of life, wildlife, and loss of territory. Our communities, tallymen and land users can attest to the changes that we see in the Cree landscape, wildlife, and Cree way of life. I want to acknowledge Chief Daisy House for her statement on behalf of her members calling attention to this reality that they live with.

In his speech, Mr. Legault announced considering to undertake another hydro development project in Northern Quebec to reach the new potential energy targets for electrification needs. In my time as Grand Chief, we have not had any discussions of this nature, nor am I privy to information that these discussions occurred in my tenure as Deputy Grand Chief. We have not been approached as the site of potential development. Our nation-to-nation discussions have been solely focused on the necessary upgrades to existing infrastructure in our territory which is now over 40 years old.

The statement of Premier Legault to close the wealth gap between Ontario and Quebec cannot be closed at the expense of the First Nations' land and culture. Present government cannot act unilaterally and without consultation of the rights of Indigenous peoples. The Cree Nation has for the past 46 years taken a position and continues to do so. I will do so as well in a formal letter to the government to ensure our voice is heard and our rights respected.

For further information:

Flora Weistche, Political Attachée Telephone: (514) 604-3276